

HOWARD COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT



ANNUAL EVALUATION OF HCPD CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY POLICING EFFORTS 2017

"Making a Difference"

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Operations Support Bureau
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Contents:

Section 1 – Community Outreach (page 2)

Section 2 – Youth (page 11)

Section 3 – Traffic Initiatives (page 16)

Section 4 – Awards (page 20)



The Howard County Police Department (HCPD) is tasked with protecting the safety and welfare of all citizens. It's mission is to provide a secure environment for the citizens of Howard County by protecting life and property, reducing the opportunity for crime and disorder, enforcing the law, assisting victims and providing other police-related services as required by the community in a manner consistent with the values of a free society. The HCPD embraces the historic tradition that the police are the public and the public are the police. The HCPD is committed to resolving problems collaboratively through a partnership between the department and our community.

Community Outreach:

The department demonstrated its commitment to Community Oriented Policing by expanding Community Outreach from a Section to a Division in 2015, adding four additional positions in late 2016/2017--a corporal, a sworn mental health liaison, a sworn youth liaison, and an administrative support staff member--and moving to a new central facility in Columbia in February 2017 that houses Outreach, Youth, and Operational Preparedness. The division

includes one police lieutenant overseeing three sections; Community Outreach, Neighborhood Community Resource Officers, and Pathway Patrol (full-time bike squad). The Community Outreach Section consists of a police sergeant, corporal, three Community Resource Officers, the Senior Liaison, the Multi-Cultural Liaison, a Mental Health Liaison (civilian), a Mental Health Officer (officer), and a youth liaison. The Neighborhood Resource Officer section consists of one sergeant and six officers in satellite offices throughout the County. The Pathway Patrol Section consists of one sergeant, one corporal and five officers.

The expansion of the Community Outreach Division has allowed the department to initiate more crime prevention programs and outreach services. More officers are now tasked with expanding the department's reach into the community. Partnerships have been formed both formally and informally with various groups and organizations such as: the African American Roundtable, the Korean Society of Maryland (Howard County), PFLAG (LGBTQ+), and the Foreign Born Information and Referral Network (FIRN), as well as contacts with organized cultural groups such as faith-based organizations, Hispanic community, deaf and hard of hearing community, and persons with disabilities. The goal of these relationships is to build trust, solidify the lines of communication, and ensure police-related community needs are being met by HCPD.

The Community Outreach Division added a Youth Liaison, a Mental Health Liaison, a Corporal, and an Administrative support person in 2016/2017. The Youth Liaison is the police department's representative to all youth organizations in the county. The Mental Health Liaison works closely with the civilian Mental Health Liaison ensures that people suffering from mental illness and their families are connected with Mental Health resources to assist them.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH SECTION

The Community Outreach Section continued hosting multiple outreach events to facilitate relationships and communication with Howard County citizens and started several new initiatives in 2017. While all positions have a specific purpose within the section, all personnel work together to assist with department-wide initiatives coming from the COS. The COS attended 273 events in 2017, some of which are included in the following pages.

Community Resource Officers (CRO's)

The department has three full-time Community Resource Officers (CROs) assigned to address community concerns. They are responsible for developing programs and presentations to educate the public to reduce crime and the fear of crime. One officer is stationed in Ellicott City to cover EC/Elkridge concerns, another is designated to handle northern district concerns, and another to southern district. They cover all areas not otherwise covered by the Neighborhood Community Resource officers (see below).



Neighborhood Community Resource Officers (NCROs)

The department has six fulltime NCROs, responsible for knowing quality of life concerns and crime trends in their designated area of responsibility. These officers work with the community to address those concerns through community policing, problem solving, and enforcement activities. The NCROs are currently assigned to the Owen Brown, North Laurel, Harper's Choice, Oakland Mills, Long Reach, and Wilde Lake communities.

Multicultural Liaison

The multicultural liaison works with the various cultural populations and organized groups in Howard County to ensure appropriate and fair services to all populations. This officer also collects data on hate bias incidents in the county. The MCL works to improve communication between HCPD and specialized populations, enhance training for law enforcement, and works to ensure that minority populations are not targeted for crime, or are treated appropriately if they are.



Senior Liaison

The senior liaison focuses on ensuring the growing senior population in Howard County is protected as best as possible against crimes targeting the elderly and works with non-police entities to facilitate education and protection. The senior liaison reviews vulnerable adult incidents involving the elderly, makes appropriate notifications to other government and non-government entities, and provides resources to the elderly and their families.

Youth Liaison

The Youth Liaison was created at the end of 2016 to improve youth-police relations through interaction, communication, and program development. In 2017, the Youth Liaison established the first police-youth advisory council, which reports to Operations Support Bureau Captain.

Mental Health Liaison

The two Mental Health Liaisons (one civilian, one sworn) work to connect people who come into contact with the police department, but also have mental health conditions, to services best suited to help them. The MHL reviews every emergency petition and mental illness suspected call for service and sends resources by letter or phone call, or in person if necessary. The MHL also coordinates with local mental health services and works to develop programs to improve community mental health as a means to reduce emergency calls for service involving the mentally ill. The MHL also works with the state's attorney's office and the detention center to connect those accused of crimes in Howard County with mental health conditions to services as a part of sentencing.

Programs:



Coffee with a Cop, in its third year, is an initiative hosted by the Community Outreach Section bringing community members and police officers together in an informal, neutral setting. They discuss community issues, answer questions and build lasting relationships, one day a month at various locations throughout the county. Twelve Coffee with a Cop events were hosted with the goal of interacting with as many residents as possible. Attendance varied from 30 to 100 patrons. The event is well received by the public both at the events and on social media, with very positive reactions to announcements regarding the events.

Oakland Mills Teen Center at the Barn: HCPD participates in "chess night" at the Oakland Mills Teen Center. This program was initiated in 2015 by Officers Bendu and Vo, who saw a need to interact with youth through non-traditional means. HCPD co-hosted a chess tournament at the teen center in 2016 and 2017, which was attended by over 75 kids and adults.



HCPD Youth Advisory Council: The YAC was created in 2017 with its first meeting taking place in October. Forty students were selected from an application process from schools across the county to represent youth in Howard County. The group meets monthly and has a leadership board to help guide the direction of the group. Its purpose is to discuss issues relevant to youth and law enforcement, foster communication and understanding, and bring awareness to issues affecting youth to HCPD.

Cultural Framework Agreements: Between 2015 and 2017, HCPD worked with various minority groups to develop written frameworks, establishing partnerships aimed at improving identified issues within the minority communities. These include PFLAG, representing the LGBTQ+ community; the African American Roundtable, representing the African American community; the Korean Society, representing the Korean community, and most recently in 2017, FIRN, representing the foreign-born community. As a result of this partnership with FIRN, HCPD was also able to develop a policy specifically addressing interactions with the foreign-born community.



Special Olympics: HCPD participates in several events annually to raise funds for Special Olympics Maryland, which is a long-standing partner with law enforcement around the world. In 2017, HCPD participated in the Torch Run, the Polar Bear Plunge, and a Cover the Cruiser event, raising over \$5,000.

Active Shooter Situation and Workplace Violence:

Presentations were presented at numerous businesses and organizations throughout the county to raise awareness. Employers were encouraged to develop a workplace violence policy and safety plans for their employees. Personal safety tips and strategies to de-escalate potentially dangerous situations were also discussed. A series of two events was also hosted at HCC targeting the faith-based community following shootings in houses of worship in other parts of the U.S. More than 240 people attended the faith-based events, which took place in December 2017 and January 2018.



Personal Safety: Presentations encourage citizens to develop personal safety plans designed to help reduce the risk of becoming a victim. They were tailored to address specific security concerns such as: Road Rage, Realtor Safety, Traveling Alone, and Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (C.P.T.E.D.).



Family Safety: Presentations focused on family issues that affect personal safety including: Stranger Danger, Media Violence, Latch-Key, At Home Alone, and Gun Violence.

The Community Resource Officers and the Neighborhood Community Resource Officers spoke in front of groups regarding Commercial Security, Drug Awareness, Fraud, Identity Theft, Bullying, and Pedestrian Safety. Tours of the police station were given to Boy Scout troops, Girl Scout troops, Daisy troops and Cub Scouts. Officers and cadets explained to children how each child can help in our crime fighting effort.

Senior Safety:

The senior liaison stops by each senior center in Howard County weekly to present on dangers that specifically target the elderly population, such as fraud, sweetheart scams, driveway/home maintenance scams, burglary, and other crimes. The senior population is also at great risk of being financially exploited by family members, and the senior liaison brings awareness to these issues at his presentations, as well as prevention recommendations.



Neighborhood Watch & Business Watch: The Community Resource Officers work closely with communities, businesses and organizations to provide the fundamental training & skills essential for people to help themselves. They taught attendees how to create and implement a Neighborhood Watch Program. Officers spoke to employers about initiating the Business Watch Program and the advantages of the Banning Notice Program.

The **Banning Notice Program** helps communities, neighborhoods and businesses address concerns when someone is creating problems on their property by utilizing trespassing laws. It provides private property owners and managers with an effective tactic to restore order on their properties. It serves notice to the disruptive person that there are consequences for their actions and that they are no longer welcome on the property.

Residential & Commercial Security Surveys: The volunteer auxiliary officers have been conducting the majority of the department's residential Home Security Surveys while the Community Resource Officers have been handling Commercial Security Surveys. In 2017, five Home Security Surveys, and four Commercial Security Surveys were completed.

**Crisis Intervention Training**

The Mental Health Liaisons train all new and veteran officers on mental health issues. Eighty officers were trained to serve as Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) members in 40-hour mental health trainings, as well as the related Question, Persuade, and Refer Program, which trains officers in suicide prevention techniques. The goal of both courses is two-fold: police personnel are trained to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental illness and they are furnished with resource information that they can then pass on to people and families dealing with mental health issues.

Drug Abuse Prevention: National Prescription Drop Off Day and 24/7 Drop Off Boxes: Research shows that over half of teens abusing medicine obtain them from family members or friends, including the home medicine cabinet, and often without their knowledge. In Howard County, three out of four heroin users began by using prescription drugs.

Unlike many other jurisdictions, Howard County has four (one added in 2017) permanent drug drop-off boxes which allow residents to safely discard unwanted medications every day of the week. The boxes are located at Northern District, Southern District, the Community Outreach Building, and the Gary Arthur Community Center in Glenwood.

Twice a year HCPD has participated in the successful Drug Take Back program. This is a safe, convenient and responsible way to dispose of unwanted or expired prescription medication.

HCPD with the assistance of HC Drug Free collected 5377 Lbs. of unwanted prescription medication in 2017; up from 3977 Lbs. in 2016 and 1573 Lbs. in 2015.



The **Bike Patrol Program** is an integral part of the Howard County Police Department's commitment to community policing and an extremely useful technique in reducing crime along the bike paths and trails. Howard County has 122 miles of bike paths woven throughout the neighborhoods in Columbia and 250 acres of parkland which have large walking trails along the tree line. The use of police bicycles on the bike paths and trails allows officers maneuverability in locations not easily reached in police cruisers and provides quick access to areas too large to cover by foot. Officers patrolling these areas on bikes create a strong sense of safety and security when seen by citizens walking along the paths. The high visibility of bike patrol officers in targeted problem areas has had a significant impact on preventing crime along the bike paths and trails. The department currently has 46 bike officers riding throughout the year, including full-time designated Pathway Squad (see below) and NCROs.



The Pathway Squad: The Pathway Squad is under the Community Outreach Division of the police department. These officers concentrate their efforts in addressing quality of life issues. They have the opportunity to positively interact with the community without the barriers imposed by utilizing the traditional police cruiser. The Pathway Squad Officers patrol either on Police Mountain Bikes, Zero Electric Motorcycles, and department's new electric pathway patrol cart.

The Zero Motorcycles and electric pathway patrol cart allow the officers to maneuver quickly but silently. They are used to conduct high visibility patrol operations on footpaths, parks, trails, retail centers and residential settings.

Bike with a Cop: The Pathway Patrol Squad hosted several Bike With a Cop events in 2017 at the request of communities, as well as at the National Night Out events.



Bike Registration Program: PFC Steven Mitzel, a Community Resource Officer, maintains a database on HCPD's website so that county residents can register their bicycles. This investigatory tool allows an officer to search by serial number for lost, stolen or recovered bicycles. This is another avenue for police department personnel to identify the rightful owners of found bicycles.



National Night Out: Police officers and members of the Howard County community joined forces on August 1 for National Night Out, an evening of events intended to generate participation and support for local crime prevention activities.

National Night Out is an annual demonstration of the department's strong partnership with the community. Residents play an important role in fighting crime and keeping our communities safe. HCPD is continuing to add new ways to interact directly and communicate openly with the public we serve.

HCPD helped residents organize 30 neighborhood block parties throughout the county. This year's kick-off event was held on Main Street, Ellicott City—where NNO was canceled the year prior due to the Ellicott City flood.



Department Wide Charity Events: In addition to the previously listed community outreach programs, officers throughout the department participated in Rebuilding Together, Shop with A Cop, and the Kindertime Toy Drive during 2017. During these events, officers volunteered their time and directly helped members of Howard County community.



Social Media: The Office of Public Affairs and the Community Outreach Division manages and disseminates information to the public. They upload information and answer questions on the department's Web page, Facebook page, Twitter account, Instagram account, and Nextdoor.

The department's web page provides information on various crime prevention programs offered throughout the county. The web page includes crime bulletins, news releases, crime statistics and other crime safety information. The site can be accessed by citizen's 24-hours a day, 365 days a year.

The Office of Public Affairs updates the web page daily to ensure that accurate and timely information is disseminated to the public.

Using social media like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Nextdoor to distribute news and information allows the department to provide updates quickly to the media and community. This is particularly helpful as breaking news incidents unfold so that updates can be distributed in real time. During incidents when it is necessary to maintain a constant flow of information, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Nextdoor allow the Office of Public Affairs to provide media outlets and the community with continual updates. The nature of this social media helps the department speed up transmission of accurate information and to dispel misinformation, which can now circulate instantly as people post own information.

Social media enhances the department's transparency and engages the community. The Office of Public Affairs shares stories, photos and videos daily that help humanize our officers and show elements of police work about which the public may not be aware. With more than 150K followers on social media, the HCPD has one of the largest followings in the county.



Youth:

Youth Crime Prevention Programs: The Howard County Police Department places strong emphasis on Youth Crime Prevention Programs and dedicates substantial resources toward this endeavor. As a result, the department has developed and implemented many successful youth programs.

BearTrax Camp is a one-week overnight camp designed for at risk fifth-graders entering sixth grade. Children selected to attend the camp are identified by school guidance counselors as being the most likely to benefit from the mentoring program. These children are not delinquent; however, there may be negative elements in their environment that have the potential to cause problems later in life. Some of the children may have poor social skills and low self esteem, and may lack effective decision making skills. Many of the children have a limited number of positive adult role models in their life.



The philosophy of BearTrax is to enhance the relationship between police officers and youth. The idea is to provide positive adult role models for these potentially at-risk children. The camp reinforces and teaches important social lessons, communication skills, conflict management skills and a sense of respect for others. The children benefit from encouragement, support and constructive activities offered by the program.

Following the BearTrax Camp, each child is assigned a police mentor who meets monthly with the child in a school setting. These mentors are role models who guide and support each student. The child's academic and social performance both at school and home are discussed in an effort to help make improvements if needed. The police mentors regularly communicate with the school administrator to further monitor the child's progress.



The program not only helps children develop positive relationships with police officers and other role models, it also helps the child develop self confidence to withstand the pressure of drugs, alcohol and gangs. BearTrax teaches children that they have choices and guides them to select the right ones.

In June, officers attended an Orioles game at Camden Yards with 31 BearTrax kids. Students were only invited if they had been doing well in school both academically and behaviorally. The tickets were donated to the BearTrax Program by the Orioles through their REACH program. Also in June, BearTrax students were invited to an end of the school year party which was held at the Monster Mini Golf in Laurel, MD.



BearTrax Holiday Party: The Youth Services Division with the assistance of Chief Gary Gardner, county resident Trish Lettieri and several members of the Citizens Advisory Council hosted the annual BearTrax Holiday Party at the Double Tree Hotel in Columbia in 2017. Ninety-eight elementary school children from a variety of backgrounds were nominated by school guidance counselors from 17 Howard County schools. Nominations of these children were based on need.

Fifty-seven children attended the Holiday Party buffet dinner, were entertained with music and received large gift bags containing various items such as jackets, hats, gloves, socks, board games, sports equipment, arts and crafts, candy etc.

This helped to ensure that all of the children received gifts during the holiday season, which otherwise may not have been possible.

For the children who were unable to make this year's party, officers dropped off the bags of gifts to the corresponding schools, so that the bags could be sent home with the children for the holidays.

Child Safety: Child safety is stressed in most of the Department's personal safety and traffic related presentations. The Traffic Enforcement Section, the Community Outreach Section, and Youth Services Section have implemented programs, which are designed to prevent injury and victimization through education. The Stranger Danger Program, Latch Key Kids, and other programs stress safety rules and common sense procedures for everyday activities. The importance of child safety seats requirements is reflected in the police department's zero tolerance standards regarding the use of child safety seats.

Explorer Post 1952: The Explorer Post serves as an introduction for young people, ages 14 to 21, to a possible future law enforcement career. The program was designed to develop character in young adults by exposing them to six experiences: career, service, citizenship, personal fitness, outdoor activities, and social interaction.



Explorers have also been asked to aid in the department's crime prevention efforts during the busy holiday shopping season. During the month of December, Explorers distributed personal safety brochures to the patrons of the county's busiest shopping centers. They engaged shoppers in conversation regarding personal safety and offered them tips on staying safe and avoiding hazardous confrontations with criminals.

Otto the Auto: The Youth Section and AAA Mid-Atlantic partnered to bring Otto the Auto, the traffic safety program to the county. Otto the Auto is a three foot remotely controlled talking car that engages young children in fun traffic safety exercises. Interacting verbally and through animated reactions, Otto teaches the importance of buckling seat belts, utilizing child safety seats, wearing bicycle helmets, and looking both ways before crossing the street.



Youth Police Academy: The YPA is a one-week overnight academy held in July 2017 by the Youth Division and the Education and Training Division. The camp was designed to expose high school students to law enforcement. The program helps young people explore career and leadership opportunities, life skills, and character building. Participants are exposed to the many skills needed to be a successful police officer in today's world through classroom instruction, role playing, and practical exercises.

Recruits participate in drill and ceremony, physical training, classroom instruction and practical exercises in patrol techniques, domestic violence, crime-scene processing and execution of traffic stops. They also utilize the Simulator, a distracted-driver course, attend Special Operations Division presentations, participate in team-building exercises and enjoy a laser tag party & field night.

Diversion/First Offender Program addresses the needs of juveniles who are Howard County residents charged with minor first-time offenses. Sanctions are varied and often serve a dual purpose: to facilitate the juvenile's emerging awareness of legal consequences and personal accountability, as well as to redress the specific problems caused by their offense. Sanctions included essays, apology letters, drug and alcohol assessments, informational workshops and restitution. An intervention plan was developed for each youth and his or her family.

School Resource Officers (SRO)

There is a police officer assigned to each of the 12 Howard County high schools and the Homewood Center. There are three additional officers who divide their time among six middle schools. The SROs' primary function is to deal with incidents that happen at schools or in the community that relate to a school. They also serve as mentors and role models to the students and teach portions of classes as they relate to law enforcement. These officers continue their work as mentors and role models with the students by staffing the summer programs, including PLEDGE, Youth Police Academy, Community Athletic Program, and BearTrax.

The Community Athletic Program (C.A.P.) is a mobile trailer filled with sports gear, games, and video game equipment. The trailer, staffed by school resource officers, is driven to neighborhoods where youth gather. The officers engage with young people in supervised activities to deter crime and gang involvement. As an added benefit, the program fosters positive relationships between youth and police.

The C.A.P. differs from the unstaffed open space and sports facilities throughout the county. It provides positive options for youth in their own neighborhoods, and in locations where gang activity may be present. Often the trailer visits shopping centers, apartment complexes, foot paths, and tot lots under the supervision of police.



The C.A.P.'s prevention/intervention model targets middle school aged youth who are too young to drive, but are too old for traditional summer camps and daycare. The trailer is driven to a different neighborhood each day of the week, and then returns to the neighborhood on the same day in subsequent weeks.

The C.A.P. program was held at five locations based on requests made by the community: Meadowbrook Athletic Complex, North Laurel Community Center, Talbot Spring Pool, Roger Carter Center, and Thunder Hill Elementary School. The locations were advertised on the HCPD website at the end of the school year prior to the start of summer.

Play It Safe is a pre-prom educational program emphasizing the dangers of drinking and driving. SRO Willingham brought the Play It Safe Program to Glenelg High School.

The goal of the program is to encourage high school graduates to make informed, healthy choices while they were away from home, many for the first time during Senior Week in Ocean City Maryland.

The program began with an assembly to the graduating class. Students watched a DVD and listened to speakers about the dangers of alcohol and drug use. As an incentive to make safe choices, each student received a booklet containing discount coupons for activities, food and free transportation while they were in away from home in Ocean City Maryland.

Project Safe & After-Prom Events: Statistically, traffic deaths among teenagers are at their highest level during prom and graduation season. The police department along with the Board of Education and the Parent Teacher Association wanted to provide a safe, supervised and controlled environment for teenagers to be able to celebrate this milestone in their life. HCPD's Drug Asset Forfeiture Fund provided \$2,000 to each of the county's high schools for their school-sponsored After Prom Parties.

P.L.E.D.G.E. Leadership Academy: The Youth Services Division hosted two, one-week leadership camps for potentially at-risk incoming high school freshman. Teachers, school counselors, principals and parents recommended students to attend. Students received instructions on gang and drug resistance, civility training, dealing with peer pressure and the importance of good decision making.



Field trips during the week of the P.L.E.D.G.E. camp consist of a tour of the James N. Robey Public Safety Training Center, visiting Cascade Lake in Carroll County and the Adventure Park in Sandy Spring, plus tubing at Antietam Creek. The skills learned at camp are reinforced throughout the school year by mentoring provided by the SROs. As a reward for demonstrating good behavior, students are taken on field trips to places like: the National Zoo, Washington Nationals baseball games, snow tubing at Wisp, Harpers Ferry

National Park, National Spy Museum, Annapolis Ghost tour, and Ice Skating at the Inner Harbor. Additionally, more than 30 students gave back to the community by feeding the homeless at the Baltimore Convention Center at Thanksgiving.

Traffic Initiatives:



Aggressive Driving Letters: In response to numerous driving complaints, the department instituted a traffic safety plan that emphasized both education and enforcement. When allegations are made by the public and officers were not able to personally verify the complaint, the Administrative Assistant of the Operations Command mailed an Aggressive Driving Letter to the registered owner. The letter served to both notify the owner of the complaint, and inform them of the potential consequences of unsafe driving behavior. During 2017, the department mailed out 667 letters for aggressive driving and officers responded to 2,886 complaints.

Distracted Driving Campaign ran April 1 through April 28 throughout the state. The HCPD conducted specialized grant funded enforcement for violations of the distracted driving laws. Distracted driving is any activity that diverts a person's attention away from the primary task of driving. All distractions endanger the driver, passenger and bystanders. Texting and cell phone use are the leading cause of distracting driving violations. Because texting and cell phone use require visual, manual and cognitive attention from the driver, their use increases the crash risk by 23 percent. Nationwide, distracted driving is



a factor in one out of four crashes. In Maryland, more than 28,000 people are injured annually as a result of distracted driving.



Helping Arriving Students Through Enforcement (H.A.S.T.E.) is designed to reduce speeds and heighten awareness by conducting speed enforcement on the roadways surrounding local schools to assure the safety of students as they travel to and from school each day in the beginning of the school year.

Maryland Law Enforcement Challenge - Click it or Ticket Campaign is about increasing awareness and saving lives. The campaign promotes highway safety through seatbelt enforcement for a two-week period.

Historically, Maryland has one of the highest seatbelt use rates in the United States, currently at 92.1 percent. But, more than 120 unbelted drivers and passengers are killed in the state each year. Roughly 38 percent of all traffic fatalities involve unbelted motorists and about 60 percent of these occur during nighttime hours. The Click it or Ticket campaign isn't about the citations; it's about saving lives! The campaign ran from May 22 to June 4. Officers were encouraged to be vigilant in seeking out unbelted drivers. Howard County police officers issued 559 citations during the campaign.



Sobriety Check Points and Saturation Patrols: Throughout the year, the department conducts sobriety check points and saturation patrols in an effort to stop drunk driving. The department publicized the events to achieve maximum exposure so that party goers would think twice before drinking and driving. In 2017, Howard County Officers arrested 883 drivers suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

Specialized Traffic Enforcement Program (S.T.E.P.) is a traffic safety strategy that targets locations most at risk for collisions, speeding and DUI offenses. Research showed that certain roadways consistently have the highest numbers of collisions and the majority of those collisions occur on common days of the week and times of the day. Since high-visibility traffic enforcement has proven to impact motorists driving behaviors, STEP was developed. This program dedicates officers to work on specific roadways during the time frames that have the highest collision rates; the highest instances of distracted driving; aggressive driving; and driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs.



Speed Monitoring and Awareness Radar Team (S.M.A.R.T.) is a public awareness initiative in which concerned citizens can take an active role in solving the problem of speeding in their neighborhoods. The goal is to involve the community by providing education and support to help reduce accidents and speeding. The teams use the radar units on roads in their communities, allowing citizens to help slow down vehicles in their own neighborhoods through positive peer pressure.



The Howard County Police Department is once again participating in the regional **ADAPT (Aggressive Drivers Are Public Threats)** program which targets aggressive drivers. While police enforce aggressive driving violations year-round, special highly visible enforcement details are utilized during identified ADAPT enforcement periods. The campaign targets aggressive drivers in Maryland and the District of Columbia. Aggressive driving behaviors include: speeding, tailgating, unsafe lane changing, failing to yield the right-of-way, and running red lights and stop signs. The high visibility enforcement campaign is designed as part of an overall strategy that involves public education provided through extensive media coverage including radio ads, billboards, Internet sites, social media posts.



for underage drinking.

Alcohol Enforcement Unit's mission is the strict enforcement of the underage drinking laws in the county; in addition, to conduct DUI and DWI enforcement. The AEU officer gave presentations on alcohol education and awareness to HCPD's Police Recruit Academy Class and Seasonal Park Rangers.

Underage Drinking Enforcement: Throughout the year, HCPD's Liquor Inspector conducts enforcement details of liquor establishments located in Howard County to determine if store employees are selling alcohol to underage individuals. The enforcement details consisted of an underage volunteer entering a liquor establishment and attempting to purchase alcohol. The details resulted in 19 businesses refusing to sell alcohol to an underage adult and three businesses being cited for selling alcohol to an underage customer.

The department continues to focus on reducing inappropriate use of alcohol and impaired driving, particularly among young people. As part of the department's educational campaign, parents and other adults are periodically reminded that anyone hosting a party where alcohol is served to minors faces stiff penalties and criminal charges.

Traffic Safety Education: The Department conducts and participates in a number of ongoing Traffic Safety Education programs. These programs are educational in nature with no enforcement component attached. Examples of programs currently being conducted are the Collision Avoidance Training (C.A.T.) program for young drivers; You are Responsible program in high schools; and the CarFit events for senior citizens. Each of these programs' curriculums emphasizes prevention. Every participant receives educational materials and, in some cases, hands on instruction.

Auto Theft Initiatives - The Vehicle Theft Specialist (VTS) assists the public in preventing auto thefts by encouraging the following safety practices: always keep your vehicle locked and the windows closed, never leave your vehicle running, park in well lit areas, keep valuables out of sight, and do not hide spare keys in or on your vehicle. The VTS promotes VIN Etching, the Watch Your Car Program, and the use of Anti Theft Devices.

The Vehicle Theft Specialist speaks at car dealerships and events educating the public and car salesmen of current auto theft trends and ways to prevent becoming a victim.



Watch Your Car Program: Vehicles are frequently stolen late at night. The Watch Your Car program is primarily designed for those drivers who normally do not drive during those hours. A sticker is placed in the vehicle's rear window easily identifying participation in the program. When the vehicle is spotted between the hours of 1 a.m. to 5 a.m., officers can routinely stop the vehicle and verify the identity of the driver.



Disability Placards: School Crossing Guard Supervisor and Auxiliary Officer Paul Bertulis offered instruction on identifying fraudulent Disability Placards and what the proper charges were to Howard County Park Rangers and fellow Auxiliary Officers.

Vehicle Identification Number Etching (VIN Etching) is a unique number engraved on the windows of the vehicle to assist with identification and to deter resale of stolen vehicle parts. Vehicle etching is offered free of charge at various locations throughout the year.

AWARDS



The Howard County Police Department received numerous awards from the Governor's Crime Prevention Program for 2017.



Governor's Crime Prevention Award for Law Enforcement Agencies (Category A) This award is to recognize those departments who have incorporated an overall outstanding crime prevention program as an integral part of their overall Community Policing Initiative in their daily operations. Awarded to the **Howard County Police Department**.

Governor's Crime Prevention Award for Law Enforcement Officers (Category B) This award is to recognize those law enforcement officers who have made an outstanding effort in their department and in their community to further the cause of proactive crime prevention. Awarded to:

Cpl. Marc Lay: (Mentoring and assistance to families in need)
PFC Bonita Alicea: (Multicultural Liaison)
PFC Jason Hall: (Mentoring and engaging youth)
PFC Will Harris: (Youth Liaison)
PFC Joel Henderson: (Working with homeless families)
PFC Meghann Holloway: (Mental Health Liaison)

Governor's Crime Prevention Award for Community Groups, Organizations and Individual Citizens (Category C) This award is to recognize groups, organizations and individual citizens who have made an outstanding effort in working with the law enforcement agency in their community to further the cause of proactive crime prevention. Awarded to **Pastor Ginny Price & Mr. Steven Lewis: (CommUNITY Kickball Event)**

Governor's Crime Prevention Award for Outstanding Proactive Crime Prevention Programs in MD (Category D) This award is to recognize outstanding proactive crime prevention programs, which have had a significant impact on the prevention of crime in Maryland. Awarded to **Transaction Safe Place (Community Outreach Division)** and **Howard County Head Start and HPD Partnership (Lt. Stephanie Wall, Lt. Eric Kruhm and members of their platoons)**



The Military Order of World Wars awarded Officer Candace Futrell a Certificate of Recognition for her significant contribution to community outreach, her focus on customer service, and substantial statistical accomplishments.

ASIS (American Society for Industrial Security) International Awards recognized and awarded the following personnel for contributions in the Police/Sheriff category, mid-size department (400 -799 sworn), during their annual awards banquet in October 2017:

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year – Police Officer Candace Futrell

Exceptional Performance – DFC Raymond Peele

Howard Glashoff III Community Service Award – PFC Jason Hall

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA): The HCPD has maintained a Meritorious Service standing and was awarded Advanced Law Enforcement Accreditation. This commemorates 27 years of distinction as a nationally-accredited law enforcement agency. Accreditation is a voluntary process that is highly valued by law enforcement professionals and recognized as an achievement of professional excellence. The HCPD first became accredited in 1990. The CALEA assessment is conducted every three years and is scheduled to occur again in 2018.

The most recent CALEA assessment findings report stated:

"The agency focuses its efforts on providing a full range of high quality and professional law enforcement services to the community. There is a strong spirit of support and cooperation between the various organizational components and enjoys strong support from the community. The chief and other members of the agency are involved in community programs and demonstrate a willingness to reach out to all members of the community.

Throughout the assessment, the Howard County Police Department was portrayed in an exemplary light. Civic leaders, business leaders, community leaders, employees and citizens praised the agency for the excellent services the agency provides to its community.

They are the model of a professional law enforcement organization and it is the result of the commitment and hard work of the command staff as well as each and every employee and volunteer of the agency."

Summary: The Howard County Police Department has a strong reputation in the community and the nation. It is incumbent upon all departmental employees to live up to that reputation by striving to improve and meet the growing needs of the Howard County community by providing a wide array of quality services and programs emphasizing Community-Oriented Policing, Crime Prevention and Traffic Safety.

